

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 24 to 26 with the following.

-- Fig. 1 is a set of photographs of the 2, 3, 5-triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC)-stained coronal slices of rats (three out of six animals) belonging to the physiological saline group. --

Please replace the abstract with the following abstract:

--The present invention provides novel methods for treating cerebrovascular disorders, in which hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) is overexpressed by introducing an HGF gene. The methods of this invention using an HGF gene enable active treatment of cerebrovascular disorders, such as cerebral infarction, by gene transfer, and enable the maintenance of neuronal function and the suppression of infarcted areas in patients for whom appropriate treatment methods were unavailable until now.--